IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claim 1 without prejudice or disclaimer and add new claims 25-38 as set forth below.

25. (New) A system comprising:

a plurality of storage devices; and

a control unit for controlling read/write of data requested by a plurality of host processors into the plurality of storage devices, using a plurality of logical storage areas constituted by storage areas of the plurality of storage devices,

wherein, when the control unit receives I/O requests from multiple host processors for the same logical storage area, the I/O requests are handled in parallel if the control unit determines that there is no extent conflict between the I/O requests.

26. (New) The system according to claim 25, wherein the control unit includes a plurality of host adaptors which control data transfer between the control unit and the plurality of storage devices.

27. (New) The system according to claim 25, wherein the control unit includes a plurality of disk adaptors which control the read/write of data from/to the plurality of logical storage areas.

28. (New) The system according to claim 26, wherein the control unit includes a plurality of disk adaptors which control the read/write of data from/to the plurality of logical storage areas.

29. (New) The system according to claim 28, wherein the control unit includes cache memories which enable the transfer of data between the host adaptors and the disk adaptors.

30. (New) The system according to claim 25, wherein the control unit includes a control memory which stores control information into a plurality of tables.

31. (New) The system according to claim 25, wherein the control unit is designed to perform exclusive control over the I/O requests based upon their extents, their extents being defined by a start address and an end address of said same logical device.

32. (New) A system comprising:

a plurality of storage devices; and

a control unit for controlling read/write of data requested by a plurality of host processors into the plurality of storage devices, using a plurality of logical storage areas constituted by storage areas of the plurality of storage devices,

wherein, when the control unit receives I/O requests from multiple host processors for the same logical storage area, the I/O requests are not handled in parallel if the control unit determines that there is an extent conflict between the I/O requests.

33. (New) The system according to claim 32, wherein the control unit includes a plurality of host adaptors which control data transfer between the control unit and the plurality of storage devices.

34. (New) The system according to claim 32, wherein the control unit includes a plurality of disk adaptors which control the read/write of data from/to the plurality of logical storage areas.

35. (New) The system according to claim 33, wherein the control unit includes a plurality of disk adaptors which control the read/write of data from/to the plurality of logical storage areas.

36. (New) The system according to claim 35, wherein the control unit includes cache memories which enable the transfer of data between the host adaptors and the disk adaptors.

37. (New) The system according to claim 32, wherein the control unit includes a control memory which stores control information into a plurality of tables.

38. (New) The system according to claim 32, wherein the control unit is designed to perform exclusive control over the I/O requests based upon their extents, their extents being defined by a start address and an end address of said same logical device.